

Message Text

SECRET

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NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, RO, MX
SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KING; RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA;
RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

A. RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA:

1. WHEN I MET WITH THE KING EARLY AFTERNOON OF
DECEMBER 22 TO GIVE HIM YOUR ORAL MESSAGE (SEPTTEL), HE TOLD
ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO FILL ME IN ON RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS ON HIS PRIVATE AND CLOSELY-HELD
CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA.
HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD MET CEAUSESCU SEVERAL YEARS
AGO ON A VISIT TO IRAN AND AS YOU ALREADY KNOW,
HAS HAD A SERIES OF CONTACTS THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES
BOTH HERE AND BUCHAREST SINCE THEN.

2. THE KING SAID THAT TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO HE
HAD RECEIVED A VISIT HERE IN MADRID OF CEAUSESCU'S
STATE COUNSELOR IONESCU. HIS TRAVEL TO MADRID
IS CLOSELY GUARDED AND A VERY RESTRICTED CIRCLE OF
PEOPLE, WHICH DOES INCLUDE THE PRIME MINISTER, IS
AWARE OF THE VISIT. IONESCU TOLD THE KING THAT
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CEAUSESCU WANTED HIM TO HAVE THE ROMANIAN ACCOUNT
OF THE RECENT WARSAW PACT MEETING. THE ROMANIANS
HAD TOLD THE SOVIETS THAT WHILE THEY ARE WILLING
FOR THE ROMANIANS GENERAL STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN
PAPER MILITARY EXERCISES, ROMANIA WOULD NOT AGREE TO
ANY WARSAW PACT MANUEVERS INVOLVING TROOPS ON

ROMANIAN SOIL. THE ROMANIANS HAD ALSO BEEN TROUBLED BY SOVIET EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS INVOLVING WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS SINCE THEY REGARDED THIS AS AN EFFORT BY THE SOVIETS TO HAVE ALL DECISIONS PASSED THROUGH MOSCOW. THIS THE ROMANIANS WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ACCEPT AND THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE FRUSTRATED THE SOVIETS ON THIS POINT.

3. IONESCU HAD ALSO TOLD THE KING THAT CEAUSESCU WAS FURIOUS WITH SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER CARRILLO AND NO LONGER WISHED TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM. CARRILLO HAD MADE A GREAT POINT OF INSISTING WITH WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND YET CARRILLO IN HIS RECENT MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO SUCH RELATIONS. CEAUSESCU WAS NO LONGER PREPARED TO PLEAD CARRILLO'S CAUSE. (THE KING NOTED THAT THIS WAS A TOTAL CHANGE FROM WHAT HIS EMISSARY PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN TOLD BY CEAUSESCU.)

4. IONESCU HAD THEN GONE ON TO URGE THE KING TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO IONESCU, CEAUSESCU BELIEVED THAT THIS STEP WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SPAIN AND FOR ROMANIA IN UNDERLINING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR ACTIONS. IONESCU HAD RECALLED THE SUCCESS OF THE VISITS OF PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD TO ROMANIA AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY HAD PLAYED IN UNDERLINING
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ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION. IONESCU HAD ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE KING MIGHT BE WILLING TO VISIT ROMANIA.

5. THE KING TOLD ME THAT HE HAD TOLD IONESCU THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY FAVORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THIS WAS A MATTER WHICH HE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE UP WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO HAD TOLD IONESCU TO THANK CEAUSESCU FOR HIS INVITATION BUT TO TELL HIM HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE PREMATURE. ON THE OTHER HAND HE WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE HIS FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT ROMANIA EARLY NEXT YEAR WITH A VIEW TO OPENING DISCUSSIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

6. THE KING CONCLUDED BY TELLING ME THAT THE HEAD OF THE SPANISH COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR OFFICE IN BUCHAREST WOULD SHORTLY BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE ROMANIANS THAT

FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WOULD BE PREPARED TO VISIT
BUCHAREST DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY TO DISCUSS
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

7. I THANKED THE KING FOR GIVING ME THE ABOVE
INFORMATION AND SAID THAT AS HE KNEW, THE UNITED STATES
HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ROMANIA AND THAT WE HAD
RECENTLY CONCLUDED A VERY SIGNIFICANT TRADE AGREEMENT
WITH ROMANIA. I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT SPAIN WOULD
DO WELL TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ROMANIA SOON AND ENTIRELY INDEPENDENTLY OF WHAT THEY MAY
OR MAY NOT DO WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

B. RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

1. THE KING EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION OVER THE
RECEPTION WHICH HAD BEEN ACCORDED TO HIS PERSONAL
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EMISSARY OF SPECIAL CONFIDENCE BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT
LOPEZ PORTILLO. THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT HAD TOLD THE
EMISSARY OF HIS VERY HIGH REGARD FOR THE KING AND
OF HIS INTENTION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SPAIN
WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS. HE STRESSED
HE WOULD HAVE TO MOVE CAREFULLY BUT THAT HE WANTED TO ASSURE
THE KING THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY.

2. THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS SENDING A SMALL
PRESENT TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AS A MARK OF HIS
ESTEEM AND GOOD WILL. STABLER

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